

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for cleansing wounds, comprising a conformable wound dressing, comprising having a backing layer which is capable of forming a relatively fluid-tight seal ~~or closure~~ over at least a portion of a wound and ~~characterised in that it also comprises further comprising:~~
 - a) a cleansing means for selectively removing materials that are deleterious to wound healing from wound exudate, the cleansing which means being configured to be positioned between the wound and the backing layer is under the backing layer and sits in the underlying wound in use; and
 - b) a moving device for moving fluid wound exudate from the wound and to within the cleansing means and for moving cleansed wound exudate from the cleansing means back to the wound, and
 - c) ~~optionally bleed means for bleeding the cleansing means.~~
2. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for cleansing wounds according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that it wherein the cleansing means is a single-phase system in which the fluid that is moved through the cleansing means, wherein the fluid for fluid cleansing is at least one of wound exudate and irrigant, at least a portion of wound exudate optionally mixed with an irrigant which fluid passes into, through and out of the cleansing means back to the wound bed.~~
3. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for cleansing wounds according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that it, wherein the cleansing means is a multiple-phase system in which the means for fluid cleansing comprises comprising a chamber containing a cleansing fluid separated from the wound exudate by means of a permeable integer, and the cleansing fluid and/or the wound exudate optionally mixed with irrigant is/are is moved through the cleansing means for fluid cleansing by the moving device for moving fluid.~~
4. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for cleansing wounds according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that it wherein the apparatus is operated as a circulating system, in which the relevant fluid passes through the cleansing means one or more times in only one direction.~~
5. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for cleansing wounds according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that it wherein the apparatus is operated as a reversing system, in which such that~~

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the relevant fluid passes through the cleansing means at least once in each of two opposing directions.

6. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for cleansing wounds according to claim 3, characterised in that wherein the cleansing fluid is the only fluid moved through the cleansing means, the moving fluid is only the cleansing fluid.

7. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for cleansing wounds according to claim 3, characterised in that wherein the moving fluids are the cleansing fluid, and fluid comprising the wound exudate are moved through the cleansing means, optionally mixed with irrigant.

8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for cleansing wounds according to claim 3, characterised in that wherein the permeable integer is selectively permeable to materials deleterious to wound healing in the wound exudate.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Original) A method of treating wounds to promote wound healing using the apparatus for cleansing wounds of claim 1.

11. (New) An apparatus for cleansing wounds, comprising:

a wound cover configured to be positioned over at least a portion of a wound;
a cleanser configured to be positioned between the wound and the wound cover, the cleanser adapted to selectively remove materials that are deleterious to wound healing from fluid containing wound exudate;

an inlet for introducing fluid into the wound cover;
an outlet for removing fluid from within the wound cover;
a recirculation path comprising one or more conduits fluidly connecting the outlet to the inlet; and

a moving device for moving fluid containing wound exudate from the wound and to the cleanser and for moving cleansed fluid from the cleanser back to the wound through the recirculation path.

12. (New) The apparatus of claim 11, further comprises a bleeding device for bleeding wound exudate.

13. (New) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the bleeding device bleeds fluid to a canister.

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14. (New) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the cleanser comprises a chamber containing a cleansing fluid separated from the wound exudate by a permeable integer, and the cleansing fluid or the wound exudate is moved through the cleanser by the moving device.

15. (New) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the permeable integer is selectively permeable to materials deleterious to wound healing in the wound exudate.

16. (New) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the permeable integer is selectively permeable to materials beneficial to wound healing in the wound exudate.

17. (New) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the moving device comprises a syringe.

18. (New) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the moving device is portable.

19. (New) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the moving device is integral with the wound dressing.

20. (New) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the moving device is a pump.

21. (New) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the apparatus is configured to supply an irrigant to the wound.

22. (New) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the cleanser comprises an agent suitable for sequestering deleterious materials from the wound exudate.

23. (New) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the cleanser comprises a macroscopic filter.

24. (New) A method of treating a wound, comprising:

positioning a wound dressing over a wound, the wound dressing comprising a backing layer, so that the backing layer forms a seal around at least a portion of a wound;

removing fluid containing wound exudate from the wound;

cleansing the wound exudate beneath the wound dressing; and

returning the cleansed fluid to the wound.

25. (New) The method of claim 24, further comprising bleeding fluid from the wound dressing with a bleed mechanism.

26. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the fluid is bled into a canister.

27. (New) The method of claim 24, further comprising passing an irrigant fluid through the wound dressing into the wound.

28. (New) An apparatus for cleansing wounds, comprising:

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a conformable wound dressing comprising a backing layer capable of forming a seal over at least a portion of the wound;

a film configured to define a space beneath the backing layer and an upper surface of the film;

a filter configured to be positioned between the wound and the backing layer, the filter configured to retain wound exudate in the space between the film and the backing layer; and

an outlet tube for removing fluid from the wound.

29. (New) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the film is attached at least partially to the backing layer.

30. (New) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the film is configured to contact at least part of the wound.

31. (New) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the film is a flat sheet of polymeric material.

32. (New) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the film is porous.

33. (New) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the space between the backing layer and an upper surface of the film contains a filler.

34. (New) The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the filler comprises a foam.

35. (New) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the filter comprises a polymeric membrane.

36. (New) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the film is configured to contact at least a portion of the wound.

37. (New) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the outlet tube is in fluid communication with a vacuum source.

38. (New) A method for cleansing wounds, comprising:

positioning a wound dressing over a wound, the wound dressing comprising a backing layer that forms a seal around at least a portion of the wound and a film beneath the backing layer defining a space between the backing layer and an upper surface of the film capable of containing wound exudate from the wound;

removing fluid from the wound using negative pressure; and

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filtering at least a portion of said fluid to retain wound exudate in the space defined by the film beneath the backing layer.

39. (New) The method of claim 38, further comprising recirculating unfiltered fluid back to the wound.

40. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein the film is porous.

41. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein filtering at least a portion of the fluid is performed using a porous polymeric membrane.

42. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein the wound dressing comprises a filler.

43. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein the filler comprises a foam.